

INFORMATION LETTER

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NATIONAL CANNERS ASSOCIATION

For Members
Only

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Committee Studies Application of Price Ceilings to Canning

**Association, OPA, and USDA are Represented on
Group Suggested by Secretary Wickard;
Details of Board Meeting**

Development of a method of applying the maximum price regulations to canned foods so as to enable the canning industry to carry forward its production plans for 1942 was placed in the hands of a joint committee representing the Office of Price Administration, the Department of Agriculture, and the National Canners Association at the conference held in Washington on May 8 and 9.

The Association will notify the industry by special bulletin as soon as definite information is available regarding action by this joint committee. It was appointed at the suggestion of Secretary of Agriculture Claude R. Wickard, who addressed the Directors, members of the Administrative Council, officers of Sections, and secretaries of State and regional canners associations, called together to consider the General Maximum Price Regulation and its possible effect on the production of canned foods in 1942. The committee convened immediately and held continuous sessions on Friday and Saturday. The full committee will reconvene on Wednesday.

Secretary Wickard had reiterated his determination to achieve the increased production goals and declared to the canners that the Department will stand behind its commitments in the canned tomato and pea production programs. He stated he had no answer to the question as to how the OPA price ceilings on canned foods, effective May 11, might affect this increased production, but that his first responsibility is to see that enough foods are produced this year, and he concluded his address, which is reproduced in full elsewhere in this issue of the LETTER, with the suggestion that a committee, of working proportions, be appointed from the canning industry, to begin meeting immediately with other committee members from the Department of Agriculture and OPA, and to stay in session until the job is done. Roy F. Hendrickson, Administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Administration, was made chairman of the group from USDA that is serving on the price committee.

Canners on Price Committee

President Lindsey named the following members to serve as representatives of the industry on the committee: Harry L. Cannon, chairman; E. B. Cosgrove, Marc C. Hutchinson, Karl K. Mayer, Howard M. Orr, Robert C. Paulus, E. N. Richmond, E. F. Trego, C. M. Walters, Elvon Musick, Stanley Powell, A. C. Ketzler, Harold Batchelder, and Clinton W. Davis.

A. C. Hoffman, Price Executive of the Food and Food Products Section, was appointed chairman of the OPA repre-

sentatives on the committee, which went into session early in the afternoon of the first day of the conference. Just prior to adjournment of the Directors on May 9, Chairman Cannon left the committee sessions long enough to make a brief announcement that no progress report could yet be made, as definite agreements had not yet been reached.

In opening the conference President Lindsey stated that its objectives were two-fold: First, to acquaint canners with the purpose and provisions of the price regulations; second, to provide an opportunity for canners to acquaint those in charge of the administration of price control with the situation of the industry under the regulations. Out of the addresses that were scheduled and the discussions to take place, he hoped that an understanding could be reached that would provide a basis for immediate action, equitable alike to producer and consumer, and which would fulfill the purpose for which the regulations were devised.

Tolley States OPA Premises

Following a silent testimonial to the memory of the late Judge J. Harry Covington, Association counsel, and an address by Edward B. Burling, senior member of the firm of Covington, Burling, Rublee, Acheson and Shorb, which is reproduced elsewhere in this issue of the LETTER, the way was paved for consideration of the price ceiling question when the meeting was addressed by Howard R. Tolley, Director of the Food and Apparel Section of OPA. Mr. Tolley explained why the price order, when it finally was issued on April 28, was so different from the type of regulation discussed by price officials at the January convention and at several subsequent Washington conferences. He explained that at that time the government policy on price was that of "selective price administration"—commodity by commodity, price by price. But a month or two ago, Mr. Tolley stated, it began to be apparent that this policy would not succeed in staving off inflation. An immediate cessation of further price increases was needed, all at once, he said, and it

Order Increases Glass Container Volume

A 30 per cent increase in glass containers to help meet metal shortages is the purpose of Order L-103, issued May 11 by WPB. It reduces glass weights, requires simpler designs, and sets up a trend to "stock" sizes. This is to be accomplished by the issuance of schedules prohibiting a manufacture of glass containers not conforming to these aims. The first two schedules issued cover spirits and malt beverages.

accordingly was not possible to wait for the 1942 packs before fixing prices.

Mr. Tolley stated that OPA has three fixed premises as to price control:

1. The March retail price ceiling will not be punctured.
2. The country needs full production in 1942 of canned vegetables and fruits, for the armed forces, civilian population and Lend-lease distribution.
3. The Government, in what it does, must so conduct itself as to be as fair as possible to all levels and branches of industry. The speaker stated that it was felt that the March retail prices were high enough to support the higher costs of labor, raw materials, etc., incurred in the production of most of the 1942 manufactured goods.

Mr. Hendrickson also spoke to the canners before the newly formed price committee went into session, expressing his appreciation of the industry's cooperation with the production program USDA has been sponsoring.

Canned food ceilings were the subject of a special panel discussion with which the second session of the Director's meeting was opened, Friday afternoon. Members of the panel were officials from OPA and the Department of Agriculture.

Canners brought out before the panel members the fact that retail prices do not immediately follow the wholesale market changes; that retail ceilings in many cases are not going to be high enough to absorb the increases canners will be obliged to pay for raw material, labor, supplies, etc.; that the March frozen levels fix the prices only for an individual seller, thus leaving a disparity between his ceiling and that of some other seller whose top price was different; that the order is based on March delivery whereas in many cases goods delivered in March were contracted and paid for several months earlier; that in the case of some products now being packed, the March ceiling already has proved to be below current costs; that some canners may establish a ceiling by having sold or delivered certain grades of the same commodity in the base period, while other grades and styles of the same commodity were not sold and therefore no ceiling was established, and other similar problems.

A canvass was made of canners in the room to ascertain what acreage increases were in sight for 1942, and how raw products, labor, supplies, and freight costs compare with last year. Expressions were had from 28 States.

Acreage increases were reported for practically every canned commodity, with several sections reporting difficulty obtaining corn acreage in sections where there is competition from soy bean expansion.

Increases in labor costs reported from the several States ranged from 15 to 45 per cent. Increased costs of raw products ranged from 15 to 80 per cent, covering a variety of items and canning crop areas. Increases reported for the cost of shipping cases ranged from 50 to 70 per cent.

Expressions regarding the warehouse situation indicated an almost uniform scarcity of storage space. Canners brought out the fact that freight rates would be higher this year, and that the effect of Tin Conservation Order M-81 on the unit costs for year-round packers would result in higher overhead costs per unit.

The facts developed in the panel discussion were recorded by the Association and presented to the price committee for consideration in their deliberations.

With the price committee still in session at the beginning of the second day of the meeting, those in attendance took up such matters as the farm and cannery labor supply for 1942, and the situation as regards sugar, containers, machinery priorities, and pack reservations for the Government.

C. V. Freeman, of the Farm Placement Section of the U. S. Employment Service, urged that canners make their labor needs known to the local offices of the Service as far in advance of harvesting and packing as possible. He described the steps the Service is taking in the marshalling of labor for war objectives—both as to production of armament, munitions and equipment for the armed forces, and the production of foods for the military and civilian population. He discussed also the program of routing of migratory labor to localities in which it is needed, and in this connection again urged that officials be notified as far in advance of need as possible.

Chester Davis, Chief of the Sugar Section of the Food Rationing Division of OPA, presented an interesting picture of the sugar supply situation, and described the efforts the Government is making to maintain a constant supply in the face of shipping hazards, in Atlantic, Pacific and Caribbean waters. In response to a question from the floor he explained that the Schedule A limitations in the sugar order include glucose and dextrose, but that the sugar uses on Schedule B—catsup, chili sauce, and other specialties in the 70 per cent category—cover only cane and beet sugar.

E. A. Meyer of the Canned Foods Section of the War Production Board, gave the meeting a forecast of the container policies that will be pursued for 1943. The Board is working on a list of all packaged foods which are being classified in such a manner as to allot each product to a permanent form of container for the duration. Mr. Meyer expressed the belief that steel scarcity is going to play a bigger part in the container problem as time goes on, demands for military use of steel having already risen above production. Rubber and steel are the outstanding scarce materials for food containers while glass and paper today seem the least critical, he stated.

Mr. Meyer repeated instructions as to the correct use of various priority forms. He particularly urged that canners applying for materials for the construction of warehouse try their best to cut down on or eliminate the use of steel. Applications for warehouse priorities, he said, should be made on Form PD-200, attention L-41.

J. Howard Hamilton, administrator of Order M-86, addressed the meeting at the Saturday luncheon, pointing out the various ways in which procurement has been streamlined during the past year. He also made a plea for full production of the goals in 1942, stating that if these are not reached, the percentages now reserved for the Government will have to be raised. He indicated that a reservation order for canned fish will be issued soon.

Business Session of Board of Directors

At the business session of the Board of Directors the tentative budget for 1942 voted by the Board at its January meeting was approved, without alteration, as the final budget for the year.

The by-laws of the Association were amended by substituting for the last sentence of paragraph 4, which reads

"The rate of dues shall be uniformly applicable, and all dues shall be due and payable quarterly," the following language: "The rate of dues shall be uniformly applicable, and all dues shall be due and payable on March 31st of each year. Members may elect to pay their dues in four equal installments on March 31st, June 30th, September 30th, and December 31st."

The date of the next annual convention—the week of January 24—was formally approved.

Application of the apple juice canners for the organization of an Apple Juice Section of the Association was approved.

President Lindsey, on behalf of the Association, presented to Robert C. Paulus, president of the Association in 1941, an engrossed copy of the resolution adopted at the annual convention in January expressing the appreciation of the Association and the industry for the notable service he had rendered during his term of office.

A review of Association activities since the January convention, prepared in mimeograph form, was distributed to those in attendance at the meeting. Text of this review appears on page 6994.

ADDRESS BY EDWARD B. BURLING

The National Canners Association became a client of Judge Covington on the day he opened his office 24 years ago and continued to be his client until the day of his death. Throughout that 24 years the relationship between the Association and Judge Covington was most happy. His task was made easier by the close friendship which had already existed between him and Mr. Gorrell for many years, and which I am happy to say continued unbroken to the end. He gave to the Association's problems a profound knowledge of the law, and unrivalled practical sagacity and a wide knowledge of public men and affairs.

He was my law partner for the same length of time. He was more than a partner, he was one of my closest friends. The loss to me is irreparable.

It is naturally a gratification to our office that you have asked us to continue the service for you. The details of the work, even in Judge Covington's lifetime, were largely in the hands of Mr. Gordon and Mr. Austern, partners in our office. They will continue the same attention they have given in the past and it will be my privilege to give to the general problems of the Association the best counsel it is in my power to render. The present moment is not the most auspicious one for taking over a job of this character, but we are in the midst of war, and we must accustom ourselves to sudden and unexpected changes.

You gentlemen are part of the war. Attitudes and opinions which members of the canning industry might have adhered to in peace time must now be given up. In totalitarian warfare I can see no distinction between the men on the two sides of the table. Mr. Lindsey and Mr. Gorrell on one side of the table, Mr. Henderson and Mr. Wickard on the other, all have but the same common purpose and that is the winning of the war. Of course, we must all of us pay something for the winning of the war. It is going to cost everyone of us something—some more than others. But all of us will gladly do whatever we can do.

Therefore, the broad purpose of the Government today is identical with your purpose. It is to do everything

that can be done to win the war. But, it is still true that sincere co-operation does not preclude intelligent discussion. You have something to contribute and your contribution, I am sure, will be welcomed. You will not raise objections in your own selfish interest, but it is your privilege, it is your duty to point out dangers to the public welfare which you from your superior knowledge of the industry perceive to be involved in measures that are proposed.

The canning industry is of vital importance in the winning of the war. It made a splendid record in the first World War; that record, I am sure, will be surpassed in the present conflict.

The subject of pressing importance is, of course, the recent price fixing regulation issued by Price Administrator Henderson. The necessity for some such regulation is universally admitted. Production of civilian consumers goods is being restricted day by day in favor of the production of war goods. At the same time purchasing power has not been and perhaps cannot be similarly restricted. The result is that the demand for consumers goods is now exceeding the available supply. All history shows that under such conditions you have a spiral of prices that brings no advantage to anyone. Let me make that clear. No one should believe that he can benefit by an uncontrolled higher price for his own goods if all other prices are also left uncontrolled. The result will be disaster for everyone.

Therefore, few informed public men have failed to endorse and support the objective of the general price regulation. At that point comes in the task which you gentlemen can perform. While accepting the objective of a price regulation, it is your duty to help to make that price regulation effective and as little injurious as possible. For, along with the objective of controlling prices, there is another objective of great importance, and that is, that production of canned foods shall be kept at the maximum. The order itself contemplates that there shall be supplementary orders and modifications. I am sure you will find the Government officials here today to be reasonable. They will be grateful to you for all suggestions you can make that will tend to the attainment of this double objective of limitation of prices and maximum production.

I shall not attempt myself to discuss with you the details of the regulation. The OPA officials and yourselves are more familiar with the subject than I am. If any counsel were called for from me, it would be that we, all of us, approach this admittedly difficult job with patience, and with tolerance for all opposing views. Let us first of all try to understand. If all of us really understand the facts involved, I am confident a reasonable solution can be reached. I can assure you that the officials of OPA are aware of the seriousness of the problem. They will want to hear from you about the difficulties which face the individual canner, the problems which arise in the distribution of canned food, the relationship of canning to agriculture, and the problems raised by the seasonal character of the canning industry.

One thing is regrettable, and that is that these acute problems should arise at the beginning of the active packing season. If we could have dealt with them in January, we could have had much more time for consideration. But that cannot be helped and you must, all of you, now, with good will, intelligence, patience, sit down with the government officials and endeavor to work out a solution which will be best for the country as a whole. There is no problem here of Industry versus Government or Government versus Industry. We are all in this great task and we must all work together for the common end.

ADDRESS BY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

I am glad to have the opportunity to appear before this group today. Your function is an important one in our vital common task. In most instances, the production of food does not end with the production of basic raw material. Production continues until the food is processed and packaged. Then and then only can we say that the job is done.

I take it for granted that all of us here today have the same common, over-all objective. As Americans our first thought is to win this war. The quickest way to win the war is the best way to win it. Therefore, we must weigh each plan and program presented to us from the standpoint of its contribution to the effort to beat Hitler, Mussolini, and the Japs.

This is the background against which we must judge the recent General Maximum Price Regulation issued by the Office of Price Administration on April 28. It is part of the effort to avert the type of inflation which will interfere with the war effort and the peace effort afterwards, too, for that matter. Any step as far-reaching as the price freeze, is bound to have a profound effect upon our economy. I might compare the effect to slamming on the brakes of a moving automobile. There is bound to be a shock. There was and we will feel its effects and for some time to come. But sometimes it is necessary to step on the brakes pretty hard to prevent a crash. I think the price freeze and accompanying proposals will help prevent a dangerous type of inflation. I supported them and am continuing to give them support.

At the same time, we must keep in mind all phases of the war effort. In the last analysis, the war will be won by production—the production of munitions and the production of food. Therefore, we must examine the price freeze in the light of its possible effect upon production. I do not think any move of such magnitude could be made without resulting in some inequities, inequities which might lower production in a few instances unless they are adequately dealt with.

Our first concern, naturally, is the effect of the order upon the production of food. Quite naturally also we want to act as quickly as we can in those instances where the ceilings might discourage production.

The Office of Price Administration will be slow to adjust retail price ceilings. I think we all understand the reasons why OPA hesitates to change the retail price ceilings. If changes are made, the lines may break.

This does not alter the problem of the farmers, the food processors and handlers and the Department of Agriculture. Our problem is to get production. There is one time for planting and that is at hand. If we do not put the crop into the ground until it is too late, we have lost an entire year's production. If there are some things which are standing in the way of production, we must do our best to deal with them. And we must answer, to the best of our ability, the questions that you are asking us and the questions the farmers are asking us.

Among these questions are to what extent the developments of the last few weeks have had on the Department of Agriculture's support program for canned tomatoes and peas. Let me assure you now that the Department intends to stand squarely behind its commitments to provide guaranteed prices to canners who cooperate under the expansion program.

In 1941 the need for vastly expanded packs of these two canned vegetables became clearly apparent. The 1942 pack goals were established at 40 million cases of tomatoes, or

one-fourth more than the 1941 pack; and 38 million cases of canned peas, or one-third more than the production of the previous year. Packs of these vast proportions were—and are now more than ever—vital to supply the needs of our armed forces, increased domestic needs, and requirements for Lend-lease operations.

Every effort has been made to assist the farmers and the canning industry in attaining these goals. The Department has agreed to purchase all quantities of 1942 canned tomatoes and canned peas offered by cooperating canners within certain periods, at announced base prices. The canners, of course, must be certified by USDA State War Boards as complying with the requirements of our program with respect to contracting and grower prices.

In March, as you will recall, the War Production Board issued Conservation Orders No. M-86 and M-86-a requiring canners to set aside for government use certain percentages of their 1942 canned fruit and vegetable packs. Included in these percentages are certain Lend-lease requirements which the Army will buy for us. This does not mean, however, that the Department is not ready and willing to accept additional offers of canned tomatoes and canned peas in accordance with the terms of our expansion program.

One further point is the price policy which the Army announced on March 26, under which 1942 supplies of canned tomatoes and peas will be bought for military use. The price policy was developed by the War Department, the War Production Board, and the Department of Agriculture as an additional means of encouraging all-time record packs of canned tomatoes and peas this year. Under this policy, canners who have been certified by the USDA State War Boards under the Department of Agriculture's expansion program are to receive higher prices than canners who are not so certified.

As you know, the price ceiling froze retail prices at their highest March levels. You doubtless have heard much discussion of the possibility of freezing certain f.o.b. or wholesale prices at earlier-than-March levels, in order to permit the normal distributive processes to continue for certain commodities. You may rest assured, however, that regardless of future developments with regard to this matter, the commitment of the Department to support prices to certified canners of tomatoes and peas will remain unchanged.

I cannot overemphasize the need for meeting the 1942 pack goals for these two canned vegetables. It is a tremendous responsibility on the part of the industry and the Department to see that these goals are attained. We are doing everything in our power to lend assistance to the canning industry in bringing about this increased production, and we have no intention of shirking our responsibilities.

Naturally, we are interested, not only in canned tomatoes and peas, but in other canned vegetables also. The question in our minds is whether the price ceilings fixed for canned vegetables other than tomatoes and peas will result in the production that we need to give us an adequate supply of these vegetables for the war effort. That is a question in your minds, too. You are interested, too, from the standpoint of winning the war and from the standpoint of your own business.

I am sorry that I do not have a detailed plan to present to you today. We have given a good many plans serious consideration but there are advantages and disadvantages to every specific proposal we have studied. As you no doubt realize the whole situation is extremely complicated and many factors must be taken into consideration.

However, I think I can state one general principle which will be guiding so far as the Department of Agriculture is

concerned. Insofar as our resources are concerned, we will do everything in our power to see that farmers receive a price which will result in the production that we need.

What will we do then in those cases where we feel that the prices that farmers may receive as a result of the price order may reduce production? I think these cases will be few but we must meet them and dispel uncertainty wherever possible. You want to know how we will assure a price to farmers that will get production and so do the farmers themselves.

Some sort of subsidy which would be given directly to farmers has been proposed. Unfortunately, I know of no funds at the disposal of the Department of Agriculture which can be used for this purpose. All the funds which we have available for direct payments to farmers already have been obligated.

We might, however, formulate other support programs similar to those for canned tomatoes and canned peas. Under these programs, the Department, in effect, as you know, offers to buy a certain product at a fixed minimum price. If the product can be sold in the open market, the Department does not have to make good on its commitment. Otherwise, the Department must be ready to take over the commodity, whether it is canned tomatoes, or wheat, or peanuts.

Keep in mind, all of you, that a primary consideration in such support programs is that farmers receive the benefit of the support price. Our first duty is to the men and women who actually produce the raw material. All other steps depend upon that step. The Department will do all it can to see that farmers are protected. This is imperative to get the production we must have to win this greatest of all wars.

I realize fully the many problems involved if it becomes necessary to extend support prices of certain kinds of canned vegetables and perhaps other commodities beyond the guarantees already given. The action would raise problems of administration, fiscal problems and many other questions difficult to deal with. Nevertheless, I feel that my first responsibility in this time of war is to try to see that enough food is produced. I am going to do all that I can to carry out this responsibility.

I know you want something more specific than I have given you today. I am sorry that my answers to your many unspoken questions are not more definite. I know that you have in mind that planting and contract times are at hand. You want to know what to do and what to tell farmers. In most instances I hope they can be told that everything is all right as matters stand now. In the other instances, I hope that we can tell them in a comparatively short time what we propose to do.

To that end I suggest that a committee be appointed from the canning industry to meet with a committee from the Department of Agriculture. I suggest that you keep your committee to working proportions and we will try to do the same.

If this proposal for a joint committee meets your approval, the Chairman of the Department Committee will be Mr. Roy Hendrickson of the Agricultural Marketing Administration and other members will be Mr. John B. Hutson of the Commodity Credit Corporation; Mr. Fred Wallace of the Agricultural Adjustment Agency; and Mr. Joseph Reed of the Office of Agricultural War Relations. I hope the two committees can begin meetings today or tomorrow and that they can stay in session continuously until something concrete is ready to be announced.

Time is of the essence. Working together, in the proper spirit, I know we can handle this situation in a way that

will get the production we need, and in a way that will insure its processing and packaging. Thereby, we will discharge our responsibility to our soldiers, our sailors, and marines who depend upon us for food. Thereby, we will discharge our responsibility to our workers, to our people generally and to our allies. Thereby, we will do our part toward winning the war.

Syrup Statement on Labels

According to expressions which are attributed to Mr. W. G. Campbell, Commissioner of the Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Administration, it will be unnecessary in labeling standardized fruits of this year's pack to indicate on the label the nature of the syrup in which the fruit is packed. In other words, whereas at present in the case of peaches, pears, apricots, and cherries it is necessary to state on the label whether the can contains light, medium, etc., syrup, the syrup statement will not be required after June 1 and up to February 26. In this connection it is to be recalled that the so-called fruit amendments which were the subject of an order in February become effective in certain particulars on June 1, but the labeling provisions were suspended for a period of one year, namely, up to February 26, 1943. Presumably an appeal for an extension would be in order as that date approaches.

The practical effect of this order would be to permit a per case reduction of the sugar content, thus permitting a greater spread of the 90 per cent sugar allocation.

If any statement is given on the labels for these fruits in reference to the degree of syrup, the syrup in the can would have to be in conformance with the Brix limits which have been established in the original standards of identity.

Canned Shrimp Hearing Announced for June 3

A hearing to consider proposals for standards of fill of container for canned wet pack and canned dry pack shrimp, under the Federal Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act, will be held June 3, commencing at 10 a. m., in Room 1039, South Bldg., Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. As announced by the Federal Security Agency, the hearing will be a fact-finding proceeding, after which it will be determined in accordance with the Act whether standards of fill of container should be established and what the provisions of such standards should be.

Relevant evidence may be submitted in person, by representative, or by affidavit. Affidavits may be delivered to the presiding officer, Joseph L. Maguire, Room 2242, South Building, not later than the opening day of the hearing.

A suggested regulation which will be the subject matter for discussion is published in the Federal Register of May 2. Copies may be obtained from the Superintendent of Documents, Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at 10 cents each.

Burch Named Coordinator for South Texas

The South Texas Cannery Association has designated its Secretary, J. A. Burch, to act as an industry coordinator with all government agencies in matters concerning the war program.

CANNING CROP REPORTS

Bureau of Agricultural Economics Issues Figures on 1942 Intended Acreage

Reports compiled from information received from canners and other processors of truck crops for commercial processing—including green lima beans, peas and pimientos—were issued May 7, by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Portions of these reports follow:

Green Lima Beans for Processing

An increase of about 19 per cent over the 1941 acreage planted to green lima beans for processing is in prospect for 1942, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. If processors carry out their late April plans, the 1942 acreage of this crop will total 76,360 acres compared with 64,310 acres planted in 1941 and average plantings for the preceding 10-year (1931-1940) period of 35,680 acres.

Abandonment of acreage planted to green lima beans for processing as a result of unfavorable growing conditions has averaged about 4 per cent during the past 10 years. If this loss of planted acreage is assumed for 1942, a planting of 76,360 acres will result in about 73,300 acres for harvest. The revised estimate of acreage harvested in 1941 is 61,800 acres and for the preceding 10-year (1931-1940) period, it averaged 34,010 acres.

In 1941 an estimated yield of 1,245 pounds of lima beans was obtained per harvested acre. For the 10-year (1931-1940) period, the average yield per harvested acre is 1,147 pounds. The harvest of 73,300 acres with yields in line with the 10-year (1931-1940) period of 1,147 pounds would give a 1942 production of about 42,000 tons for canning and freezing. This compares with 38,460 tons produced in 1941 and an average production for the preceding 10-year (1931-1940) period of 19,510 tons.

The following table shows, by groups of States, the planted acreage which will result if these late April intentions to contract and plant are carried out. These intentions may be considerably modified before plantings are actually made, and therefore are not to be considered as plantings for the coming season.

STATE	Planted Acreage		Intended in 1942	
	10-year (1931- 1940) Average	1941	Acres indicated	As percent of 1941
	Acrea	Acrea		Per cent
New Jersey.....	6,140	14,500	.....	.....
Delaware.....	8,320	13,000	.....	.....
Maryland.....	3,140	4,500	.....	.....
Virginia.....	6,030	6,700	.....	.....
	23,630	38,700	42,900	110.9
Michigan.....	2,800	2,000	.....	.....
Wisconsin.....	1,220	*2,700	.....	.....
	4,110	4,700	6,100	129.8
Other States.....	7,940	20,910	27,360	131
Total all States.....	35,680	*64,310	76,360	118.7

* Revised.

Pea Planting Progress; Condition, May 1

Adequate precipitation during the winter months over most of the northern part of the United States was an important factor in making the planting season for green peas gen-

erally successful. Some deficiency of rainfall was experienced in the Middle Atlantic region extending from New Jersey and Pennsylvania southward and westward into Ohio, but canners' reports up until the last of April did not indicate serious trouble.

Steady progress has been made in planting operations since late in February when preparations got under way for early varieties of green peas on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia. Many canners, including those in Wisconsin, reported their growers were approaching the end of the planting season 10 days or two weeks earlier than usual. In Colorado and some of the high altitude areas in the Rocky Mountains and Pacific Northwest, however, crops have been retarded by frosts and low temperatures.

Intended Acreage for Pimientos

If pimiento packers in California and Georgia carry out the plans that they had in mind when reporting to the Department of Agriculture late in April, the 1942 plantings for processing in these two States will total 13,560 acres. This compares with 12,730 acres planted in 1941 and average plantings for the preceding 10-year (1931-1940) period of 13,770 acres.

The Department report gives the intended acreage for California as 560 acres as compared with 730 planted acres in that State in 1941. For Georgia this year's acreage intention is put at 13,000, compared with 12,000 planted last year. It is pointed out that these early season intentions may be modified somewhat before plantings actually are made, and therefore are not to be considered as the acreage planted for the 1942 season.

Fish Industry Advisory Committee Named

Formation of a Fish Industry Committee has been announced by the Bureau of Industry Advisory Committees. The government presiding officer designated is Lawrence T. Hopkinson, and the first meeting was to have been held on May 8. Personnel of the Committee is as follows:

James Abernethy, Sunset Packing Company, West Pembroke, Me.

Walter S. Hallet, American Fish Company, Boston, Mass.
Harden F. Taylor, Atlantic Coast Fisheries Corp., New York City.

Julian McPhillips, Southern Shellfish Co., Inc., Harvey, La.

Victor H. Elfendahl, Alaska Pacific Salmon Co., Seattle, Wash.

Harry A. Irving, Sea Pride Packing Corp., San Francisco, Calif.

Leland B. Irish, Coast Fishing Company, Wilmington, Calif.

Robert P. Fletcher, Jr., Booth Fisheries Corp., Chicago, Ill.

Canned Oyster Pack for 1941

Preliminary figures on the canned oyster pack of 1941 have been released by the Fish and Wildlife Service of the Department of the Interior. On the basis of 48 five-ounce cans to the case, the pack in 1941 amounted to 593,195 cases, valued at \$2,879,027. In addition, 3,785 cases of smoked oysters were produced valued at \$30,944. The 1941 pack was slightly under the pack of the two preceding years.

Unsold Stocks of Canned Salmon

Unsold stocks of canned salmon on April 30, 1942, amounted to 37,066 actual cases, compared with 232,689 cases on April 30, 1941, and 57,923 cases on March 31, 1942, according to statistics compiled by the Association of Pacific Fisheries.

The figures for both years, shown in the table below, which presents details on unsold stocks, are based on reports from firms which packed 99 per cent of each year's pack:

Grades or varieties	Tails (1-lb.)	Flats (1-lb.)	Halves (8 dos.)	Total Apr. 30, 1942	Total Mar. 31, 1942	Total Apr. 30, 1941
Chinooks or Kings:						
Fancy Red.....		180	3,032	3,212	5,616	21,651
Standard.....		225	5,295	5,520	6,953	12,078
Pale.....	7			7	25	5,779
White.....						2,302
Puget Sound Sockeyes.....	1,787	6,988	8,775	10,900	20,212	
Alaska Reds.....	548	190	110	857	2,041	46,517
Coboes, Silvers, Med. Reds.....	*		1,231	1,231*	1,462*	31,070
Pinks.....	11,421		170	11,591	16,607	68,886
Chums.....	3,233		132	3,365	10,752	20,196
Bluebacks.....			1,615	1,615	2,273	405
Steelheads.....			893	893	1,294	3,593
Total.....	15,209	2,391	19,466	37,066	57,923	232,689

* Note: Does not include Coho tails.

List of Canning Industry Men with Government

The following men, prominently identified with the canning industry, are now connected with the Government in various war emergency assignments. It has been suggested that a listing of their names, titles, Washington addresses and phone numbers would be helpful to Association members:

Walter L. Graefe, Consultant, Food and Food Products Section, Fruit and Vegetable Unit, Office of Price Administration, Room 2634, Temporary Building D, Republic 7500, Extension 4409.

J. Howard Hamilton, Special Adviser and Administrator of Order M-86-a, Division of Purchases, Office of the Quartermaster General, Room 1013, Temporary Building C, Second and Q Streets, S.W., Republic 6700, Extension 4287.

H. F. Krimendahl, Administrator, Order M-81, Containers Branch, War Production Board, Room 5118, Railroad Retirement Building, Republic 7500, Extension 71110.

E. A. Meyer, Chief, Canned Foods Section, War Production Board, Room 5219, Railroad Retirement Building, Republic 7500, Extension 2521.

B. C. Olney, Consultant, Food and Food Products Section, Fruit and Vegetable Unit, Office of Price Administration, Room 2634, Temporary Building D, Republic 7500, Extension 4409.

G. C. Scott, Assistant Administrator, Order P-115, War Production Board, Room 5219, Railroad Retirement Building, Republic 7500, Extension 3354.

Douglas C. Townson, Chief, Food Supply Branch, War Production Board, Room 5026, Railroad Retirement Building, Republic 7500, Extension 2423.

Frank Wilder, Consultant, Containers Branch, War Production Board, Room 5119, Railroad Retirement Building, Republic 7500, Extension 72716.

DEATH OF B. E. MALING

Prominent Oregon Canner-Freezer Was Active in National Association Affairs

Bertrand E. Maling, president of the Ray-Maling Co., and manager of B. E. Maling, Inc., both at Hillsboro, Oreg., died May 1, at his ocean-front home, at Whale Cove, Oreg., after several months' illness. He was 53.

Always active in Association affairs, Mr. Maling, at the time of his death, was a member of the Administrative Council and the Finance Committee. In past years he had been on the Board of Directors, and had served also on the Statistics and Information and Conference with Distributors Committees, as well as holding office consecutively as secretary and chairman of the Apple and Apple Products Section. A leader in State and sectional activities also, Mr. Maling was one of the organizers of the Northwest Cannery Association and of the Northwest Frozen Foods Association, for he was engaged in both forms of commercial food packing. On separate occasions he had held office as president of each of these organizations for two consecutive terms. Mr. Maling was a member of the Old Guard Society, a wearer of the gold emblem, signifying more than 30 years in the canning industry.

He was born in Brewer, Me., in 1888. There he received public and high school education and left for Portland, Oreg., in 1905. His first employment was with a hardware wholesaler and later, after entering the employ of the Chicago & Northwestern Railway Co., he began a rapid series of promotions which took him from office boy up to traveling freight and passenger agent. During the war he was a manufacturer of ship knees for the wooden shipbuilding industry.

In 1914 Mr. Maling had become a partner in the Columbia Packing Co., of Ellsworth, Wash. From 1915 to 1917 he was a partner with A. J. Ray & Son, Inc., hop dealers, and in 1920 Mr. Maling and H. W. Ray organized the Ray-Maling Co. of which he was first secretary-treasurer and later general manager and president. From March, 1927 to May, 1934, Mr. Maling was secretary-treasurer and general manager of Ray-Brown Company, Woodburn, Oreg., and from 1934 on had been general manager of B. E. Maling, Inc.

Restrictions Placed on Spice Distribution

The War Production Board on May 8 placed restrictions on the distribution of black and white pepper, pimiento (allspice), cassia (cinnamon), cloves, ginger, nutmeg, and mace. The restrictions are contained in Conservation Order M-127 and Supplementary Order M-127-a. Quotas established permit Class 1 receivers, defined as manufacturers or processors of foods or medicinal products who purchased an average of 50 pounds of spices per month during 1941, to receive 100 per cent of their 1941 monthly receipts of black pepper and 75 per cent of their 1941 monthly receipts of white pepper, allspice, cinnamon, cloves, ginger, nutmeg, and mace during May, 1942 and each month thereafter.

Special provisions are contained in the order permitting quota exemptions for deliveries to government agencies. Inventories must be held to a two months' supply and complete records of transactions must be kept for a two-year period.

REVIEW OF ASSOCIATION ACTIVITIES

The following memorandum, on certain phases of the work carried on by the Association since the annual convention, was prepared for the information of the Board of Directors and others in attendance at the meeting. Other aspects of the activities of the Association in the war effort were discussed during the Board meeting and are reported elsewhere in this issue of the LETTER.

Introductory

Activities of the Association since the annual convention have been directed chiefly to assisting the industry to carry out its part in the war program and to meet the problems growing out of necessary war-time regulations and controls. In doing this the Association was but continuing activities which were begun even before the United States became involved in the war and which became the primary work of the Association when Japan made its attack on Pearl Harbor.

The convention program, it will be recalled, was devoted almost entirely to war problems, such as canned food requirements of the armed forces, government procurement methods, priorities as they affected canning equipment and machinery, probable methods of price control, labor supply, canning crops production, and the sugar situation.

At the time of the convention, progress had been made toward working out these various problems. The Department of Agriculture had set up its program of production goals, particularly those for tomatoes and peas; the Government had assembled tentative estimates of the proportion of various canned food packs that it would require for the armed forces and for Lend-lease purposes; purchasing methods had been outlined; the labor supply and placement problem had been studied and plans formulated to meet it; a priorities system had been established following varied changes in methods of meeting this problem; the sugar situation had been surveyed but no definite action taken upon meeting the effect of this situation upon the canning industry.

Since the convention, the industry has been placed more fully on a war basis by a series of definite orders and regulations. These, for the most part, have developed from curtailment of the tin supply; the growing scarcity of steel and other metals; curtailment of rubber supplies; the prospective shortage of labor due to the migration of workers to war industries and the effect of the draft; the sugar situation as affected by transportation, production of alcohol, and the shutting off of some sources of supply; the price situation and the need for control of inflation; the general expansion of the whole war program.

War Council

So that the services of a representative group of canners might be available upon Association and industry problems arising from the war, President Lindsey appointed, in April, a War Council of 30 members. As announced when the Council was named, its work will be carried on chiefly through subcommittees, as this procedure will make it unnecessary to assemble the entire Council for consideration of a subject that can be satisfactorily handled by a smaller group. This, in turn, will be a saving of time and energy for those who are serving on the War Council and who have many and varied problems of their own to handle.

Production Goals

Plans for increased production as a part of the canning industry's war effort were begun at a national conference of growers and canners of four major vegetables called by

Department of Agriculture officials in Washington, November 27 and 28, 1941.

On December 19 the Secretary of Agriculture announced a program to meet 1942 war-time needs which called for the greatest supply of canned vegetables to be produced in the history of the country. This was accompanied by a price-supporting plan for canned peas and tomatoes based on payment by canners of "fair minimum prices" to growers. At the convention these prices were discussed by Department of Agriculture representatives and in the weeks that followed State and County War Boards worked out with canners the details of adjusting the canners' diverse methods of buying raw products to the increases per ton called for by the Government, and started certifying canners whose contracts were approved.

The Government's reports of "intentions to plant," published in the INFORMATION LETTER, demonstrated that canners and growers were planning increased acreages of tomatoes and peas. The reports showed that intended acreage for peas was 26 per cent above last year's plantings, and for tomatoes, 29 per cent above last year.

In many parts of the Middle West, canners have found that the drive by the AAA for greatly expanded acreage of soy beans, coupled with the Government's price-supporting program for this crop, made it extremely difficult to contract acreage for sweet corn, and in some cases for peas and tomatoes. Anticipated shortage of labor for harvesting canning crops, of course, added to this difficulty. The zeal of many field agents of the Department of Agriculture in promoting soy bean acreage tended to overshadow the real interest of the Government in assuring production of sweet corn equal to that of last year. Urgent representations by the Association's Raw Products Bureau to Department officials in Washington resulted in official requests to State and County War Boards to cooperate with canners in obtaining needed acreage wherever prices for sweet corn were such as to make the returns to growers comparable to those from soy beans.

In several eastern States a large proportion of the tomato acreage has for many years been grown without contracts, the grower being free to sell his crop in any available market. The attempt to harmonize this situation with the requirement that canners buy on contracts certified by State War Boards in order to be eligible to sell to the Agricultural Marketing Administration created much confusion and argument. The difficulties of operating the Department of Agriculture purchase plan in areas where canners have depended on lengthening their operating season by buying raw products from earlier and later producing sections, and where growers have depended on shipping green wraps early in the season and selling the peak harvest to the canner, appear too complicated to be ironed out successfully in a single season. In these areas, as in the Middle West, the campaign for increased soy bean acreage added to the difficulties. While many canners have been certified, others in these areas have not been convinced of the feasibility of the plan and numerous growers apparently are refusing to give up their accustomed freedom of marketing their tomato crop through several different channels.

Labor Supply

Canners have realized for some time that labor shortages during the coming season would create serious problems, both in cannery operations and in harvesting perishable crops. Conditions vary so widely that no single solution or group of remedies will fit all situations. Success in getting necessary help will depend largely on the initiative of the individual canner and the degree to which he obtains the cooperation of all agencies that are able to help. Most important among these are the local full-time and part-time

offices of the U. S. Employment Service. Canners also should consult the local defense counsel or War Board, the local farm organizations, the chamber of commerce, the town and county school officials, and the newspapers.

Many State association secretaries are giving valuable assistance in helping canners make advance provision for extra labor, both in the cannery and the growers' fields. The letter sent by the Association to all canners and to State secretaries on April 27 emphasized the problem and requested an account of the progress made to date. Replies thus far received reveal that State associations are actively working with all agencies that can give assistance.

The problem of deferment of key or essential employees whose services are necessary to the industry if it is to carry out its 1942 production program has been taken up with Selective Service Headquarters through the War Production Board, to which the Association submitted a statement listing those occupations in the industry for which special training and experience are necessary. The industry recognizes its obligation to prepare for eventual loss of those who will be called to service in the armed forces, but hopes that its ability to produce the foods required by the war program may not be unnecessarily reduced by immediate drafting of manpower that it needs in the coming season's operations.

At the close of 1941 the exemption from the Walsh-Healey Act of government contracts for the future purchases of specified canned fruits and vegetables, which expired on December 30, was extended by an order of the Secretary of Labor to April 30.

By an order issued April 21 all food processing and 14 other industry groups were granted an exemption from the provisions of the Act that prohibits the employment of girls under 18 years of age on government contracts. This action was taken upon a request made by the War Department.

Meantime, further extension of the exemption that expired on April 30 was under consideration and on April 29 the Division of Public Contracts of the Department of Labor issued notice of opportunity to show cause why exemption from the provisions of the Act should not be granted in the award of contracts for the canned fruits and vegetables specified in the original order. Interested parties were given until May 9 to file in opposition. The exemption, if granted, would extend to December 31, 1942, and would be made to apply to both spot and future contracts.

Container Problem

On February 11 the War Production Board issued its Conservation Order M-81, limiting products that can be packed in tin cans during 1942. This order, which the Association sent to the entire industry, placed products in three classifications: (1) primary products, for which unlimited quantities of cans may be used; (2) secondary products, for which the quantity of cans is limited; (3) special products (not foods) for which the quantity is limited to that used in 1940 or to other special limitations. The order also cut the use of tin cans for "non-essential" products (these being products other than those in the foregoing three classes) to 50 per cent for the remainder of February and then discontinued their use. It also limited cans for various products to specified sizes. All these restrictions applied to products for the civilian trade only. The order granted permission to use additional tinplate for the packing of such quantities of the various items as may be required by the government agencies.

Order M-81 combined tin conservation with standardization of containers. On both of these subjects the Division of Statistics has assembled considerable information during the past ten years. Data relating to the size of containers

used for various products, the problems involved in their standardization, as well as the relationship of standardization to tin conservation, were assembled in tabular form and presented at numerous conferences with WPB.

Studies of the utilization of tinplate made by the Division were presented to the Government as an aid in the preparation of this order. Various conversion factors and calculations regarding the amount of tinplate that would be used under various restrictions that were being considered, likewise were presented at conferences with officials. The pack figures used as a basis for developing this order were from the files of the Division of Statistics. These pack statistics were prepared and presented in considerable detail as to can sizes, etc.

On March 4, Order M-81 was amended to permit can makers to deliver cans of any size for primary or secondary products which were completely manufactured or whose parts were completely cut on February 11.

On April 3, Conservation Order M-104 was issued by the War Production Board restricting the production of tinplate or terneplate crown caps for various products. It forbade the use of cover caps of tinplate or terneplate for tomato catsup, chili sauce, and home-use jars of jelly, jam and other specified products.

On April 7, Order M-81 was amended as it relates to canned soups so as to limit the packing of condensed soups to specified kinds. The amendment fixed the percentage of solids that these soups are to contain after June 30.

For a considerable time before Order M-81 was issued, the Association's Laboratory was making its contribution to tin conservation. This took the form of research projects on tin conservation proper, on can solder studies intended to find a way to decrease or eliminate tin content and investigations of the possibilities of utilizing electrolytic tinplate, Bonderized plate, and enameled steelplate for food containers.

Tin Conservation Studies.—The Laboratory's study of the effect of reduction of the amount of tin on tinplate is now nearing completion insofar as non-acid products are concerned, after one and one-half years' storage at 85 degrees F. The last examination is scheduled for May 27. On the basis of previous examinations it is expected that the final examination will reveal no difference in service life of non-acid products packed in 1.25 plate over that in 1.50 plate.

Among the acid products which are subjected to monthly "flip vacuum" tests equal service value has been obtained to date in the tomato and peach packs. Dried prunes, R.S.P. cherries and apricot jam exhibit better service in 1.50 plate. In order more fully to investigate the possibilities of 1.25 plate which may continue in general use after the emergency, it was thought wise to continue the "flip vacuum" tests on all the acid products with the exception of prunes. The losses in the prune packs are such that no further information can be obtained from them.

The usual solder used for tin can manufacture contains 60 parts lead and 40 parts tin. To further conserve the national tin stock supply, efforts are being made to decrease or entirely eliminate the tin content of solders. Little if any solder is exposed to the can contents with the sanitary type can. With certain types of cans, notably the milk can, some solder is exposed. Any alteration in solder composition at once raises the question of possible solution of lead to a toxic level. Two types of substitute solders are under consideration, one having 95 to 97½ parts of lead and the balance silver and another of approximately the same composition with small amounts of tin.

Preliminary work on the preparation of packs in lead-free glass containers containing specially prepared tinplate discs

carrying known areas of substitute solders is now under way. These packs are being subjected to chemical analysis for dissolved lead on arrival and after appropriate storage periods.

Studies on Electrolytic, Bonderized, and Blackplate.—An investigation was undertaken to obtain information on the possibilities of utilizing electrolytic tinplate, Bonderized plate, and enameled steelplate for food containers. Two lines of investigations will be pursued. The first will consist of obtaining experimental packs of a wide variety of products packed in various types of containers and held in storage at 85 degrees F. Periodic examinations and "flip vacuum" tests will be made following the procedure used in the tin conservation project. Experimental cans are expected this month in time to pack asparagus and spinach.

The second source of information will be through examination of experimental packs prepared by five can companies for their own information. These can company packs will include a number of products and can variables not included in our own packs. Preparations for the experimental cans are now under way and these will be packed with the various products as they become available.

These studies and the solder studies have been planned in consultation with representatives of the National Research Council and can company laboratories. The Army Quartermaster Corps is kept advised on progress and will assign a representative to participate in the examinations.

Container Program for 1943.—At the time Tin Conservation Order M-81 was prepared, the primary consideration was to save tin. In the case of those food products for which the use of tin was restricted, substitute containers were suggested for the remainder of the packs of these food products. One of the substitutes was glass. It later developed, however, that the use of rubber for glass closures promised to restrict the quantity of glass that may be used for containers. It became evident that an over-all policy with regard to the use of containers for the preservation of food must be developed. Plans already have been laid for the allocation of the various materials available for containers to the food products that must be processed and packed. The Association is cooperating with various government agencies in the development of this program. It is expected that only certain parts of the program will be ready in time for the 1942 pack. It is planned, however, that to each food item in the 1943 pack will be assigned one or more of the various containers and that appropriate orders will be drawn to regulate the use of the container materials.

Government Purchasing Program

As previously stated, tentative estimates of the canned foods that the Government would require for the Army and Navy and for Lend-lease purposes were presented at the annual convention in January. On March 13, the War Production Board issued Conservation Order M-86 and Supplementary Order M-86-a, which required canners to set aside specified percentages of certain canned fruits and vegetables from their 1942 packs for allocation to various government agencies. The supplementary order included preferred grades and can sizes, and the canner is required to reserve the specified grades and sizes to the extent that his total production permits.

The order to reserve foods for the Government includes products on both the primary (unrestricted) and secondary (restricted) lists in Order M-81 governing the use of tinplate. In the case of primary products the percentages apply to the canners' total pack in 1942. In the case of restricted products, the percentages apply to the pack permitted by the tin conservation order. However, an interpretation of the tin conservation order (which governs

production for civilian consumption) permits the canner to obtain tinplate to enable him to pack an additional amount equivalent to the quantity reserved for the Government. Consequently, the amount of any restricted product that may be packed is the amount allowed by Order M-81, plus the percentage of that amount he is ordered to reserve for the Government. On the other hand, if he is unable to pack the entire amount permitted by Order M-81 for civilian consumption he is nevertheless required to reserve for the Government an amount equivalent to the specified percentage of his permitted pack under Order M-81.

In the preparation of Orders M-81 and M-86-a, the Division of Statistics was called upon from time to time to furnish pack statistics with details as to grades, can sizes, etc. Calculations on the percentage of preferred grades and can sizes of various foods needed by the armed forces were prepared by the Division and presented at conferences during the preparation of the orders.

Prompt publicity was given to these orders, the reports canners were required to make, and the forms for making these reports, in the INFORMATION LETTER, copies of which were sent to the entire industry, as had been done in the case of the tin conservation order. Following such publication, the Association answered numerous inquiries as to their interpretation, and in the LETTER for May 2 there was published a series of questions and answers on the interpretation and administration of Orders M-86 and M-86-a.

Meanwhile it had been announced to the industry by J. Howard Hamilton, administrator of Order M-86-a, that all purchases of canned foods subject to that order, would be made by direct negotiation with the canner by field buyers and the three Central Quartermaster Depots (Jersey City, Chicago, and Oakland, Calif.).

Shipping Containers

At a conference of shipping container associations, on March 24, at which representatives of the National Canners Association and Can Manufacturers Institute were present, the War Department announced that canned fruits and vegetables from the 1942 pack reserved for the Government under Order M-86-a, must be packed in export cases. Procurement officials urged that canners place orders early in order to avoid possible bottlenecks in raw materials and distribution. The inventory provisions of Priorities Regulation No. 1 had been amended on March 23 to permit acquisition of a stockpile of boxes for future 1942 requirements.

The announcement of the Department was accompanied by a detailed estimate of the shipping container requirements for 1943, along with specifications for weatherproof solid fiber boxes, wire-bound wooden boxes, and nailed wooden boxes. Details of this announcement were carried in the INFORMATION LETTER for March 28.

Amendment No. 1 to Supplementary Order M-86-a, effective April 13, was issued by the War Production Board, and gave revised specifications for shipping cases. These were published in the INFORMATION LETTER for April 18.

Machinery and Equipment Priorities

Simultaneously with the issuance of the tin conservation order, the War Production Board issued Preference Rating Order P-115, which granted a high rating to canners for the use of critical materials for maintaining and equipping their plants for operation in 1942. The order provides a blanket rating of A-3 for the purchase of repairs and operating supplies. The canner is authorized to use this rating on his purchase orders of these items and no additional authority from WPB is required for such purchases. The order grants the use of the A-3 rating for the approved purchase of new machinery for either replacement or expansions. Approval of the use of the rating for such purchases

is obtained by the canner on application to the administrator of P-115 on Form PD-285. The order grants permission to use a very high rating (A-1A) for the purchase of emergency repairs needed in case of a breakdown during the canner's operating season.

In preparation of this order, the Division of Statistics, cooperating with a subcommittee of the Advisory Committee of the Canning Industry, assembled information regarding the additional canning capacity needed to pack the output required by the 1942 canned food program. This information was prepared in tables showing the amount of each of the various strategic materials required. A representative of the Division presented this material to the various branches of WPB, obtaining their approval for the use of the strategic materials involved.

Since the issuance of this order, assistance has been given members of the industry in its interpretation and use. Since not all of the canners' priority problems are solved by P-115, it has been necessary to direct the industry in the use of other orders and forms with which to make application for preference ratings.

Order P-115 does not provide for the purchase of certain types of supplies, such as containers, boxes, stitching wire, strapping, etc., nor does it grant authority for purchase of building materials.

Order P-79 on stitching wire and strapping was issued by WPB, partly as the result of many canners' problems which arose from experiences during the pack in 1941. The order is designed primarily for use of manufacturers of boxes using stitching wire, etc. Canners were classified as manufacturers of boxes if they folded their own boxes and stitched them. Recently this order became ineffective because the rating granted by it was too low. On presentation of the canners' problem to the administrators of this order it was ruled by WPB that canners should make application for stitching wire, strapping and nails for wooden boxes on Form PD-1A.

All building construction, including that for canning, is limited by Order L-41. Permission to start construction of any commercial building, the cost of which will be \$5,000 or more, must be applied for on PD-200, applications to be filed with the local FHA or local WPB offices.

Rubber Restrictions

Loss of practically all the rubber-producing regions to the Japanese brought about a critical situation in the supply of rubber for automobile tires and other uses. The period of time required to develop quantity production of synthetic rubber necessitated immediate and drastic rationing of available rubber supplies, especially for tires. This created a serious problem for canners' fieldmen. Later, as the uses of rubber were further curtailed, it became necessary to issue regulations on the use of rubber closures for glass containers, which it had been thought could be utilized in considerable measure in place of tin containers.

At the suggestion of the Rubber and Rubber Products Section of the Office of Price Administration, an industry-wide survey was made to determine the number of fieldmen's cars and their annual mileage. The survey showed a total of 6,250 fieldmen's cars with average annual mileage of 13,772 miles. Cars of canners' fieldmen are eligible for retreads but not for new tires. The number of cars that may be supplied with retreads depends on the periodical allocation of camelback by the War Production Board.

On April 9 WPB issued Conservation Order M-119 prohibiting the purchase or use of any rubber or rubber compound for the manufacture of glass jar closures for a specified list of products, among which are included corn on the cob, greens, macaroni, pickles, potato products, soups and

chowders, spaghetti, turnips, and whole apricots, carrots and pears. This order does not apply to products manufactured for the Army and Navy, for Lend-lease purposes, or for other governmental agencies that WPB may designate.

Sugar Rationing

As the annual convention went into session, canners' sugar was under conservation control, with Order M-55 permitting users the same monthly quantity of sugar they received during the corresponding month in 1940. War in the Pacific had cut off the normal 16 per cent importation from the Philippines and reduced that from Hawaii, which annually accounted for about 14 per cent. The Sugar Section of the War Production Board had announced that a revised sugar order was in preparation, and its chief, A. E. Bowman, was on the convention program. During that week in Chicago, he announced the amendment which changed the 1940 base period to 1941 so as to achieve a more equitable distribution of sugar. At the same time, a second amendment to M-55 established sugar allotments on a monthly quota basis, 80 per cent of average monthly use or resale during October, November and December being allocated as the February quota. Washington headquarters of the Association mailed out copies of the text of these amendments to the industry before the convention had adjourned.

From that time until the industrial rationing program was completed, canners operated under a monthly quota system, and the sugar situation was altered only by the issuance from time to time of amendments, regulations and supplementary orders of one sort or another.

The rationing program was being devised during this period and representative groups of canners were called to Washington on several occasions to assist in the development of allocation, use and rationing methods. A great deal of the preliminary calculation necessary to formulation of a final program was done by the Association's Division of Statistics.

Among the several steps leading to the rationing program now in effect was a War Production Board order placing the entire volume of raw cane under control, a request to canners not to accept delivery more than 45 days before they begin their 1942 packs, a telegram to the Association asking it to caution its members against excessive purchases of sugar, and Interpretation No. 1 of Order M-55 which permitted canners to transfer contractual rights for future deliveries of sugar provided they had not accepted delivery, the sugar in such cases to be charged against the quota of the final receiver.

WPB then issued supplementary orders to M-55 which set aside 15 per cent of beet sugar stocks for shipment as directed, and which also restricted the sale and shipment of domestic refined sugar to specified zones, adjacent to the refineries. Canners of non-acid products in some sections affected by this order, on expressing their concern about the possible non-availability of sugar which meets N.C.A. standards, were assured by the Laboratory that it should be possible to obtain sugar in all areas where such products are canned. To meet the situation created by the supplementary order, the Laboratory suggested that canners arrange with sugar producers to obtain samples from warehouse lots for examination, results of which could be made available two days after the samples were received.

As drafting of the official industrial sugar rationing program approached completion, it was made known that control of rationing would be vested in the Office of Price Administration. Up to that time, WPB had jurisdiction over distribution from refiners while OPA controlled rationing in the wholesale and retail trades. The transfer of authority placed the problem of sugar supplies for the canning industry in OPA hands.

OPA then established April 28 and 29 as registration days for industrial sugar users and for the filing of their applications for sugar purchase certificates. Detailed instructions for registration with local boards were issued, and these, along with reproductions of the forms required, were published in full in the INFORMATION LETTER. The registration instructions were followed within a few days by OPA's release of the actual provisions of the rationing, which also were published in the LETTER.

The order establishes sugar limitations in pounds per unit of product for beets, carrots, carrots and peas, cream, whole-kernel, and vacuum pack corn, peas, and succotash. No sugar limitations were imposed on other vegetables. For canned fruits and fruit juices the maximum sugar allowance per unit was established at 90 per cent of the average quantity of sugar used per unit of all grades during 1941. Packers of preserves, jams, jellies, fruit butters, pickles, mincemeat, catsup, chili sauce, soups, tomato sauce and certain other specialties, are to be allotted each month 70 per cent of the amount used during the corresponding month of 1941 or of the amount used during March, 1942.

The Price Situation

Almost simultaneously with adjournment of the January convention, the President signed the Emergency Price Control Act of 1942, which empowered the price administrator to fix and regulate commodity prices when and if they should rise to an extent inconsistent with the purposes of the law—the control of threatened inflation. At Chicago, canners had heard Dr. Harold B. Rowe state that prices on what remained unsold of the 1941 packs were being watched, and that since costs on those goods already had been incurred no occasion was seen for a price rise. If prices should go above warranted levels, he said, ceilings would be imposed on the balance of the 1941 packs.

For a few weeks following passage of the Price Control Act, price ceiling orders and regulations affected only various commodities of general utility to canners—such as burlap bags, citric acid, lumber, gasoline, coal, paint, etc., and these details were reported regularly in issues of the INFORMATION LETTER.

Meanwhile, in preparation for the contemplated price order covering canned foods, the Association's Division of Statistics was engaged in the compilation of various data relating to the geographical distribution of the total pack, the characteristics of each canned food involved, and other information that would assist in the drafting of a price formula.

The first OPA action directly affecting canned foods themselves was a temporary freeze order which established maximum sales prices for canners and distributors on 11 specified canned fruits and 15 canned vegetables from the 1941 packs, government officials stating at the time that average prices at canners' levels had increased about 20 per cent since August, 1941, and retail prices about 10 per cent in the same period. The provisions of this order did not apply to sales at retail.

This temporary order was made effective from March 2 to April 30. It prohibited sales by both canner and wholesaler at any price higher than that at which the same grade, brand and can size sold during a base period—February 23 to 27. Other provisions of the order took care of situations wherein no sales had been made during the base period. Certain inequities in the determination of the highest price reached in the base period were corrected in a subsequent amendment.

While the temporary order was in effect and preparations were under way for issuance of the permanent canned foods

ceiling order, the industry participated in two meetings held for purposes of price consideration. The first of these was called by OPA for March 19-20 at Chicago and brought together the members of the Canning Industry Defense Advisory Committee, with two OPA officials presiding. Suggestions were received by the government men on certain phases of the price control program such as cost determination, probable increases in 1942 costs over those of 1941, and establishment of regions for use as a basis of setting price differentials on each canned item. Canning industry representatives also attended a second meeting on price controls, held under OPA auspices in Washington, April 22-25.

The temporary price order was superseded by the General Maximum Price Regulation issued April 28, copies of which the Association distributed immediately to the industry. The universal ceilings imposed on practically all commodities in American economy, include every canned product except milk. Purposes of the price regulation, as stated in the official bulletin, are to avert the grave inflationary threat of already-developing general price increases as well as the consequences of such inflation. The ceiling the order establishes is the highest retail price which prevailed during March, 1942, and the restriction applies alike to manufacturers, distributors and retailers.

In recognition of war-time necessities it was felt that the industry should study the application of the Maximum Price Regulation. Accordingly, President Lindsey issued an immediate invitation to members of the Board, the Administrative Council, secretaries of State and regional associations, to attend such a conference in Washington, May 8 and 9.

Study of Dehydration

In the first World War there was a large temporary increase in the production of dehydrated vegetables, mostly for the use of the Army. The products were for the most part of poor quality and did not win any general acceptance after the end of the war. In recent years there have been improvements in drying methods and an increased market for certain lines of dried products, notably powdered onion, garlic, celery, and the like for seasoning purposes and more recently dehydrated soup mixtures for household use. At present, however, requirements for the Army, Navy, and Lend-lease are receiving greatest attention and account for most of the expansion taking place in the dehydration industry. The Army in particular has a large buying program for the following dried vegetables: Irish potatoes, onions, cabbage, carrots, beets, sweet potatoes, and yellow turnips.

A number of canners are planning to enter the dehydration field and others have the matter under consideration. This is quite understandable in view of the tin situation and the restrictions already in force on the use of containers. While there are promising developments under way in substitute containers they will not meet all needs immediately and dehydration offers one means of utilizing canning crops for which cans are not available.

The Laboratory is endeavoring to keep in touch with developments on this subject and collect information as it becomes available for the benefit of interested members. It is uncertain how much time can or should be given to study of actual operations, but one trip was made several weeks ago to Nova Scotia by a member of the staff to observe the operation of tunnel dehydrators in use there. These were of a special design which had received favorable comment from government officials. In addition, a general statement on the current situation has been prepared for distribution to canners interested in dehydration.

Nutrition Project

At the meeting of the Board held in Chicago in January, approval was given to a plan for nutrition studies on canned foods. In substance this plan called for the establishment of fellowships in academic laboratories outside the canning industry and it was to be administered by a scientific group not immediately associated with the industry. There was provision, however, for an industry committee to be on call for consultation with the scientific group. The plan of work included: (1) studies to assay the nutritive elements of canned foods, particularly in regard to vitamins of the B complex about which much information has been disclosed in recent years; (2) technological studies in the direction of greater retention of the nutritive elements and, (3) feeding studies to demonstrate in a practical way the vitamin and mineral values of canned foods.

Since January, meetings have been held to decide upon matters of policy, particularly in regard to the administration of the plan. A meeting will be held in the near future to decide upon what is necessary for experimental material. Following such decision, experimental packs will be prepared which will include the more important canned food commodities.

Miscellaneous War Activities

In the foregoing paragraphs have been mentioned only the major war problems and activities that have received attention by the Association. Only a detailed day-to-day report could adequately picture the character and volume of work handled. Probably the outstanding feature of these varied activities is the constant stream of inquiries by telephone, telegraph, mail and personal conferences that reach the Association every day. These inquiries concern practically every phase of the industry's operations under war-time conditions and have called for cooperation by all members of the staff in providing the service that members expect.

While the Association conducts its work primarily for members whose dues finance its operations, the Association has not hesitated to extend that service to the entire industry where such extension is needed to assist the Government in carrying on its war program.

Legislation

Since the convention, Congress has enacted six war-time legislative measures that affect canners and at the present time the House Committee on Ways and Means is engaged in the difficult problem of writing what probably will be the most drastic tax law in the history of the United States. During the course of House Committee hearings on this new tax bill, the Association arranged for the presentation of testimony urging upon the Committee the necessity of additional relief from the excess profits taxes for canners. This testimony was presented by two canner witnesses: Mr. Henry P. Taylor of Virginia, and Mr. William B. Stokely, Jr., of Indiana.

In their presentation they suggested that canners be permitted to include 100 per cent of borrowed capital in computing invested capital for excess profits tax purposes instead of the 50 per cent allowed under the present law. This, it was pointed out, would make the tax more equitable in its application to an industry that is undercapitalized and that experiences more or less definite profit and loss cycles. The House Committee also was asked to provide for a 50 per cent carryover of income that is subject to excess profits tax as a reserve against future losses.

Final passage of the price control law came after six months of Congressional hearings and debate that resulted in the defeat of proposals for over-all control of prices and wages.

The other five important legislative enactments established authority for the issuance of war damage insurance and marine war risk insurance covering vessels, crews, cargoes, and passengers; made technical amendments to the amortization law under which capital outlays for the war effort may be amortized over a five-year period; placed upon the statutes broad powers to limit profits on war contracts; and, through the Second War Powers Act, tightened controls over priorities and requisitioning.

A minor act of Congress, but one of importance to many canners, gave the Navy authority to purchase canned fruit and vegetable juices for use in the Navy ration.

In addition to the present consideration of Federal taxes, Congress also is considering amendments to the District of Columbia income tax law. The House recently passed and sent to the Senate an amendment exempting from this tax law, income derived from sales to persons in the District where the orders require acceptance and title to the property passed outside the District.

No action has been taken nor is any scheduled at this time on the new Somers can size bill. The bill would establish entirely new can sizes for canned foods based on liquid measure units of the ounce. The bill was drafted by a committee of the National Conference of Weights and Measures Officials.

Subcommittees of the House Judiciary Committee have had under consideration measures to amend the anti-racketeering Act and proposals to require Federal registration of labor unions and trade associations. The anti-racketeering Act amendments were introduced as a result of a Supreme Court decision pointing out certain loopholes in the Act.

Necrology

Since the convention the Association has suffered an inestimable loss in the death of three of its outstanding personalities and leaders.

J. Harry Covington, former chief justice of the Supreme Court of the District of Columbia, and for 24 years counselor for the Association, died at 71 in Washington, D. C., February 4, after a brief illness. Almost his last public appearance had been his address to canners at the convention the week before.

William P. Hartman, chairman of the Simplification Committee and serving also on the Legislative, Home Economics, and Statistics and Information Committees, died at the age of 54, at his Columbus, Wis., home on April 28. Mr. Hartman was a former member of the Board of Directors and a past president of the Michigan Canners Association.

Bertrand E. Maling, member of the Finance and Statistics and Information Committees, died, aged 53, at his home at Whale Cove, Oreg., after several months' illness. He was a former Director, had served on several other Committees and was a past president of the Northwest Canners.

Membership and Finance

Membership of the Association has been increased since the annual convention, 34 additional firms having affiliated with the organization. As of May 1 the Association had received returns from all but 27 of its members, and returns that will come in later will no doubt increase the case basis on which membership dues are assessed.

At the present time the seasonal product membership is 168,000,000 cases and non-seasonal, 54,000,000 cases. This compares with 146,000,000 and 43,000,000 cases, respectively, the amount at the time of the convention on which the 1942 tentative budget was based.

Dues paid by members from January to May 1 have been about \$51,000 more than the payments during the corresponding period last year.

Under the leadership of Chairman Paulus of the Finance Committee, members of that Committee have been active in the solicitation of new members. The present is an opportune time for such membership work because of the service the Association can give to all canners affiliated with it.

Research Laboratories

Since the last report of the Laboratory, progress has been made towards the revision of Bulletin 26-L, "Processes for Non-Acid Canned Foods in Metal Containers," and it is hoped to have the new edition available for distribution soon. The studies on labeling, waste disposal, bacteriological problems, and the "tin conservation" pack have been continued. New activities of the Laboratory which have special reference to the national emergency include studies to test the effect of low tin on tinless solders in contact with foods and to test the utility of containers manufactured from Bonderized and electrolytic tinplate and from enameled steel. A survey has been made on new developments in dehydration. The Director of the Laboratory has been named chairman of the canning industry nutrition committee and in that capacity has cooperated with the Federal Security Agency's National Nutrition program.

The more important of these special war-time projects are discussed in the foregoing general statement of Association activities since the convention. The review of the other regular Laboratory work follows.

Bacteriological Studies.—Extended consideration has been given to the effect of curing salts on spores of putrefactive bacteria in canned meats. These salts—sodium nitrate and sodium nitrite—appear to have little or no effect on the heat resistance of the spores, but they inhibit the germination of the spores markedly in laboratory media and in meat.

The periodic culturing of the experimentally inoculated packs of tomato juice which were prepared in the 1940 and 1941 seasons is being continued. Results obtained on the 1941 pack substantiate and amplify those previously found.

As part of the current Laboratory work on vitamin studies, microbiological methods for the assay of thiamin, riboflavin, niacin, and pantothenic acid have been investigated. Considerable data on the content of these vitamins in several canned products have been accumulated. These studies are being continued and expanded.

There has been a continuation of research on heat resistance by means of the N. C. A. method. A satisfactory quantitative medium for thermophilic anaerobes has been developed and work on the new qualitative medium for both thermophilic and putrefactive anaerobes is now in progress. A study of the growth of and toxin production by *Clostridium botulinum* in experimentally inoculated whole onions, onion puree, and onion juice has been undertaken. This work was prompted by a report which indicated that factors, other than acidity, may be determining in regard to inhibition of growth of *Cl. botulinum*.

Preliminary work has been started on experimentally inoculated packs of green asparagus and cabbage. Results of the tests as planned for the experimental packs will make it possible to determine: (1), equivalent processes for No. 2 cans at different processing temperatures by both the inoculated pack and the heat penetration methods; (2), a comparison of the two methods of process determination; and (3), a comparison of the effect of various locations of inoculum on the time necessary for sterilization.

Labeling Activities.—At the request of the Executive Committee of the Labeling Committee, a representative of the Laboratory assisted the Labeling Division in a series of conferences with representative canners of the principal canned

food commodities. This work is outlined in the report of the Labeling Division elsewhere in this issue.

Laboratory studies have been conducted on the development of methods for color evaluation in various canned foods. It has been found that direct observation of the drained solids with a properly equipped Munsell color analyzer gives a numerical expression of the relative amount of acceptable color. Examination of a solution of the color with a spectrophotometer also appears feasible. The work is being continued.

Waste Disposal.—The extensive experimental waste disposal program contemplated for this year will of necessity be curtailed to some extent in favor of new projects on substitute containers and solders, discussed elsewhere. As time permits, however, efforts will be made to conduct as much as possible of the experimental program. Several field trips have been made for consultation with respect to individual canner's problems. Since this type of service involves little time, no curtailment of this activity will be necessary.

Raw Products Research Bureau

Since the convention, the Raw Products Bureau, while continuing its regular work, has given attention to a number of special "war problems" closely related to production of crops for canning.

These include the survey on the use of automobiles by fieldmen and the necessity of keeping these cars in operation; the supplies of rotenone available for control of aphid, weevil, bean beetle, and other insects in 1942 and the modification of dust and spray formulas called for by the necessity for conservation of rotenone; the hazard to production of canned peas created by current and threatened spread of Austrian winter peas in canning and seed-growing territory; difficulties in obtaining needed acreage of canning crops, especially sweet corn, brought about by the Government's drive for greatly increased acreage of soy beans; conferences with Department of Agriculture officials on AAA policy in regions where a substantial part of the tomato acreage is customarily grown without contracts on an "open acreage" or "free lance" basis; and assisting canners with their individual problems in connection with the foregoing and numerous other war emergency situations. The special work of this sort of the Raw Products Bureau is covered in the general review of Association activities given elsewhere in this report.

Rotenone Insecticides.—Rotenone is relied upon by canners and growers as an insecticide essential for control of asparagus beetle, pea weevil, pea aphid, and Mexican bean beetle. The war has cut off supplies from the South Pacific while shipping difficulties and economic problems raise questions as to the availability of supplies being replaced rapidly and in adequate volume from South American sources. Government agencies have been active in trying to safeguard the immediate future through price ceilings and by limiting the use of rotenone almost entirely to the production of food crops. The controlling order prohibits the use of rotenone for many purposes for which it has customarily been used. For 1942 it appears that the supply will be sufficient but not abundant—for 1943 the outlook is none too favorable.

Entomologists and insecticide manufacturers conferring in Chicago in January and in Baltimore in March have developed recommendations for conserving rotenone in 1942 insect control operations. These involve lowering of the rotenone content and depending for efficiency in control or greater care in selection of diluents and in methods of application.

Austrian Winter Peas.—As a result of the high price for Austrian winter peas guaranteed by the Government, the

growing of this crop has spread into new territory, including regions where in the past pea growing included only canning- or seed-acreage. Because canners must control weevil with a completeness far beyond that considered necessary in many sections where Austrians have been grown, and because of the fact that Austrians have, in common with Bangallas, the characteristic of turning liquor black in the can, pea canners in the Northwest have been seriously concerned. It is highly desirable that plans be developed promptly that will insure such segregation of canning and Austrian winter pea acreage as will protect canning acreage from contamination by volunteer Austrians and prevent building up weevil populations in canning territory.

New Publication.—Except for the unavoidable effect of "war-work" in reducing time available for the field, the regular services of the Bureau have been carried on as usual. The change made last fall, by which agricultural research relating to canning crops has been published currently in the INFORMATION LETTER, instead of in the form of a special yearly report, has received favorable comment from members. The change has proved to be especially appropriate to the war emergency because of the extra need at this time of applying promptly all improved crop production practices. Now more than ever efficiency in production is required, as a partial offset to increased costs, labor shortage, and transportation difficulties.

All the material published in the regular issues and special supplements of the LETTER since October is now being brought together in a single publication, in LETTER format, for distribution to member-canners and their fieldmen.

Consumer Complaint Service

A decided decline in the number of complaints has occurred so far this year, 607 having been made as compared with 910 for the first four months of last year. That is the lowest number recorded for this period of the year since 1934. The most reasonable explanation of this is the decrease in unemployment brought about by the war and the concentration of the public mind generally on far more serious problems than damage claims, many of them based on alleged experiences of a more or less trivial nature.

There has been no corresponding decrease in the number of suits filed or brought to trial during this period. These cases necessitate a large amount of correspondence, and frequent calls upon the Laboratory staff for assistance in the form of chemical or bacteriological examinations or attendance at trials as expert witnesses.

The Association has been fortunate in regard to the outcome of suits which it has been called on to defend in court this year, and much credit for this result is due to the local attorneys engaged for this work. Of 24 such suits, six have been dismissed, 15 resulted in verdicts for the defendant and three in verdicts for plaintiff. Two of the favorable decisions were in cases taken up to a higher court on appeal, one by the defendant and the other by the plaintiff. The decisions were both based on failure to establish to the satisfaction of the court that the canned food was responsible for the illness or injury. Suits numbering 313 are still pending.

The new trust indenture authorized by the Board at its meeting in January, and extending for another ten-year period the special protective plan established in 1932, was duly signed by President Lindsey and the three Trustees, and became effective March 12. A summary of its provisions has been prepared by Mr. Gordon of general counsel's office and copies are available to any member on request.

One contribution of \$2,000 has been made by the Trustees of the Protective Fund in connection with a claim reported in 1939. The settlement of this serious claim was made

upon the recommendation of the Association's local and general counsel.

Division of Statistics

Since the meeting of the Board of Directors in January, the Division of Statistics has followed its usual schedule in assembling and reporting statistics of stocks and packs, and has prepared and issued "Canned Food Statistics, 1941, Vegetables."

In addition to the regular work, much of the time of the Division staff has been devoted to assisting the various government agencies in developing their war program insofar as it relates to the canning industry. Statistics and various types of economic data have been assembled both from the Division's files and from members of the industry direct, and these have been presented to the Government. Presentation of these data required their preparation and assembly in tabular form suited to the particular problem under discussion. The tables and other information were presented at the various conferences of the government agencies, and explanations were given orally to the government representatives by a member of the Division's staff.

This procedure has been followed during the periods when various government orders affecting the canning industry were being prepared, and such cooperation not only has assisted the government agencies but also has given the Association an opportunity to become familiar with the various steps taken in the preparation of orders affecting the canning industry, as well as the reasons why various details were embodied in them.

The work of the Division has thus made it possible for the Association to assist the Government in the administration of the orders, because it has enabled the Division to explain to canners the meaning of various details. Considerable time of the Division has been spent answering various types of communications from canners.

It should be clearly understood, however, that the function of the Division of Statistics in relation to the administration of these orders has been simply to explain their meaning, and that no attempt has been made to direct or influence their administration, because this function is clearly that of the government agency involved. On many occasions, however, the Division has assisted members of the Association in expediting decisions from the government administrators.

Home Economics Division

As is the case with other divisions of the Association, the Home Economics Division, along with regular duties, has been occupied with direct war work, conducting activities relating to revision of the Army Cook Book and cooperating with the National Nutrition program of the Federal Security Agency.

Miss Smith was one of 10 women chosen to test and develop recipes for the revised version of the Army Cook Book. She has been engaged in formulating recipes for canned vegetables and canned, fresh, frozen, and dried fish. A series of luncheons was served in the Kitchen consisting of these trial recipes, critical opinions obtained from members of the Association staff were used as the basis for acceptance or revision of the Army recipes. In addition to this work the Service Kitchen has continued its regular program of recipe work for members of the Association.

In its program of cooperation with the nutrition campaign, the Division has pointed out the place of canned foods in the nation's food economy. The increased enrollment of women in Red Cross nutrition classes has presented a good opportunity to tell the story of canned foods at a time of peak interest. It was found that few of the manuals being used as teaching guides in nutrition classes mention canned foods, thus leaving the women enrolled with the idea that fresh

foods only are essential for proper nutrition. Efforts have been made to correct this impression and to inform the professional and homemaker groups as to the important part canned foods play in making up an adequate diet, as well as to demonstrate that canned foods could be used entirely, if necessary, to achieve this end. Among 53 talks to 4,851 persons were many given to Red Cross nutrition and canteen classes.

In addition to these talks, Miss Black has completed the teaching of two Red Cross nutrition courses of 20 hours each, and is now teaching her third group. Total registration of these courses amounted to 155.

Requests from all parts of the country for material to be used with Red Cross nutrition and canteen classes have greatly increased and in addition, requests have come in from educational institutions, homemakers, and radio stations in larger numbers. To date 305,985 pieces of material have been sent out by the Division.

The news releases this year have been directed towards an emphasis of the National Nutrition program.

Seven weeks of field work comprised trips to Minneapolis, St. Paul, Crookston, Moorehead, and Northfield, Minn.; New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cleveland; Alexandria, Harrisonburg and Staunton, Va.; Athens and Atlanta, Ga.; and Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Five radio talks have been given. The stations were WRC, Washington; KILO, Grand Forks, N. Dak.; WLS, Chicago; WJZ, New York City; and WFBR, Baltimore.

Besides this public relations work, Miss Atwater has had the following articles published: "The Bulletin Board," American Cookery Magazine, February, 1942; "On a Wise Cook's Shelf," Capper's Farmer, February, 1942; Interview in New York Herald Tribune, March 6, 1942; and "Tin Takes the Spotlight," The Family Dollar, April, 1942.

Information Division

With the extension of war-time controls and regulations, especially since the first of the year, the INFORMATION LETTER has gained additional importance as a medium through which the Association can keep its members promptly informed on current developments and their application to the industry. The Association's policy has been to present in the LETTER only authentic information and interpretations of this information coming from authoritative sources. Such a policy is necessary if the LETTER is to be of genuine value to canners.

The amount of material published has greatly increased over the corresponding period of last year. Up to the first week of May this year the total number of pages published was 220, as compared with 130 pages during the corresponding period of 1941. The 1942 record included five supplements, three of which were devoted to raw products research activities, a fourth to material from the industry survey conducted by Dr. Neil Carothers, and a fifth to the relation of the 1942 agricultural conservation program to vegetables for canning.

Airmailing the LETTER to canners at distant points has ensured their receiving it on Monday, thus placing them on an equal basis with those nearer Washington.

Several issues of the LETTER containing information of vital concern to the entire industry have been sent to all canners. This has been a service not only to the industry but also to the government agencies that desired this information to reach all canners.

An increasing number of canners are maintaining permanent files of the LETTER. Such files are not only of day-to-day value but will also constitute a record that canners will wish to have of the industry's problems and achievements during the war period.

Labeling Division

Following the plan for developing the labeling program that was approved at the January meeting of the Labeling Committee, Mr. Payne and Mr. Smith held 44 meetings and 11 additional conferences with canners of 28 fruits and vegetables throughout the country for the purpose of completing a set of descriptive label terms for those products.

For many of the products more than one meeting was held in order to get reasonable regional representation. In some cases, differences of opinion were expressed at different meetings, and attempts have been made to reconcile these differences of opinion by mail. In many cases this has proved successful, but in others still further correspondence is necessary.

The recommendations of the commodity committees have been reviewed with the members of the Home Economics staff of the Association, who made several valuable suggestions. These have been passed on to the committee members. Replies from committee members have not yet been received in all cases.

It was anticipated that, by the time of the May meeting of the Board of Directors, rather complete plans for a revision of the Labeling Manual would be ready to submit to the Labeling Committee. However, the unexpected advanced date of the Board meeting finds such plans incomplete.

It is hoped that through conferences to be held with members of the Labeling Committee who will be in attendance at the Board meeting, definite plans for completion of the work can be formulated by which the Committee can act upon the terms recommended at the field conferences without the necessity of convening the entire Committee. Such a plan would prevent delay in carrying through the projected program.

During the field work on labeling Mr. Payne had opportunity to speak briefly before the Canners League of California, the Northwest Canners Association, the salmon canners meeting, and the Florida Canners Association.

Two successful wholesaler-broker meetings were held—one in Seattle with about 60 present, the other in Portland with about 90 in attendance. While in Portland, Mr. Payne was asked to speak to the Advertising Club at a luncheon meeting.

Occasion also has been found to meet with a number of newspaper and magazine editors, with the heads of several college departments of home economics, and numerous label manufacturers.

Dextrose Included in Total Sugar Allowance

The Office of Price Administration stated on May 9 that the amount of corn syrup or dextrose used in canning or packing must be computed as part of the maximum amount of sugar per unit allotted any product under the sugar rationing regulations. Rationing Order No. 3, Section 1407.89c, OPA points out, provides that in determining the quantity of sugar used in canning fruits and vegetables, canners shall include all dextrose and corn syrup used on the basis of 1.2 pounds of dextrose or 1.4 pounds of corn syrup as the equivalent of one pound of sugar.

Attempts to Increase Steel Plate Production

The steel plate problem is being eased slightly by increasing production, particularly from strip mills, the Iron and Steel Branch of the War Production Board announced May 9. The steel plate shortage is among the obstacles to the manufacture of canning machinery.